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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT NO. TOPIC Gadow-Rossow Bombing Range

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 

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DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 7 August 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. During two nights between 8 and 11 April 1953, bombing was practiced by jet bombers which approached individually over Gadow-Rossow bombing range. The bombs used were again fitted with tracer ammunition.
2. The following air activity was observed over the training field from April to 12 June:

April. On many days and also at night, bombing was practiced by jet bombers which sometimes flew in formations of up to 12 planes. However, the aircraft involved could not always be observed. From the detonation heard,  inferred that bombs of various types were dropped. On the morning of 22 April, MiG-15s were seen over the range. As the view was limited,  not observe any bombs suspended from these planes. After the MiG-15s had circled several times over the range and made slant approaches, detonations were heard. Thereupon, the MiG-15s again left toward Wittstock.

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25 May. About 9 a.m., a formation of two MiG-15s crossed the range several times at an altitude of 2,000 meters. The weather was fair. The two planes made four approaches at an angle of 60 to 70 degrees. No bombs or auxiliary fuel tanks were seen under the wings of these planes when they crossed the field after pulling out of dive, which could not be observed. On the fifth approach, a loud detonation was heard. There was no detonation on the sixth approach. However, the planes again dropped a bomb each on the seventh approach, after which the two planes were seen leaving toward Wittstock. When the planes were making their seventh approach, another formation of two MiG-15s was observed circling the range twice at an altitude of 2,000 meters. After the first approach of the second formation, two detonations were heard. Before making the second approach, this formation of two planes circled the field two or three times at an altitude of 2,000 meters. After dropping their bombs, the planes again left toward Wittstock. Subsequently, an individual MiG-15 arrived and made one approach which was followed by two detonations. Until shortly after 11 a.m., three additional formations of two MiG-15s arrived at the field and practiced bomb releases in the manner described above. When one of the MiG-15s crossed the field at an altitude of about 100 meters,  observed that

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this plane did not carry bombs under its wings. [ ] the underside of the fuselage was marked by two dark transverse stripes and one longitudinal stripe. Contrary to the bombs dropped from jet bombers, which produced a roar and subsequently a dull sounding detonation, the bombs dropped by MiG-15s did not produce a roar and their detonation was marked by a high-pitched sound. In the evening, parachute flares which burnt for 1 to 2 minutes were dropped. On other days, i.e. on 5, 27 and 30 May and on 4, 5, 9 and 12 June, bomb release was practiced in the usual manner apparently by Il-28s.

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3. Timber, apparently cut by Soviets, was being hauled on trucks [ ] to Rossow railroad station on 26 April.

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4. On 18 April, truck [ ] came from the direction of the bomb range. On 28 April, a detail consisting of a lieutenant and 15 to 20 EM with black-bordered blue epaulets exchanged timber against boards at Gadow sawmill.

[ ] Comment. The observations [ ] on the practices by MiG-15s over Gadow-Rossow bombing range are noteworthy. From the detailed description it is inferred that the MiG-15s did not drop bombs but fired from 37-mm guns at ground targets. The reported transverse and longitudinal stripes on the undersides of the fuselages of MiG-15s could be identified [ ] These stripes probably show the hinges of flaps giving access to the power plants and the partition line of the rear section of the fuselage.

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